



EUROPEAN SOCIETY of VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY

## Bulletin 7-1 : Spring 1995

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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Dermatologists

**This is the "new look" Bulletin! Comments, please!**

You will have read in your Annual Report that the Board (of which the Bulletin Editor is not a member) would like this to be a quarterly Bulletin. Currently, there are not enough contributions to make four Bulletins a year, nor do I have time to produce four "old-style" Bulletins. If you, the members, want four a year, YOUR contributions will have to increase and the method of production has to change. The "old-style" Bulletin needed professional printing - which slowed production. This new look Bulletin will decrease the production time but additional ways of decreasing the work are also needed if you are to get more than two Bulletins a year.

Thierry Olivry, despite his move to North Carolina, has produced his excellent abstracts. However, I still do not have the Bulletin Board information for the MAC. Is there a MAC user out there who can let others know?

Chiara Noli kindly sent me a copy of the excellent European Society of Veterinary Internal Medicine Newsletter. This has abstracts of scientific meetings of the Society and news from related European Societies such as the European Society of Veterinary Oncology. Perhaps of equal interest to some members is that membership is automatically free to members of ESVC, ISVN&CN and ESVONC. Is there something to be learnt by the ESVD?

Two very hard-working members of your Board, Dominique Heripret and Margreet Vroom have sent interesting reports for this issue. I make no apology for reprinting the letter requesting more papers for *Veterinary Dermatology*. This is our journal and we pay for it. My sadness is that the ISI is run without any knowledge of clinical subjects. Citations indices are unjust for clinical papers. The work of other pathologists on prognosis is some of the most useful to me and I quote it daily. This is not considered in the list of citations because I am not writing in a scientific journal - so the true value of the work is underestimated.

This summer, you could improve your dermatology at all levels. Information on International European meetings is in the usual section. The Annual Congress by the sea in Barcelona promises a great mix of science and fun - so do come.

Finally, those who wish to apply for specialist status must have application in by October this year. Will there be many applications on these "academic" only criteria? As one member said to me, what is the fact that you are an ESVD member to do with a Specialist qualification? Are you buying it?

**Joan Rest**

**N.B. DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT EDITION IS 30TH SEPTEMBER 1995**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:**

It might interest you to know which country has the most ESVD members - as you can see from the figure below, the United Kingdom has the most members with 93.

As membership secretary, I would appreciate it very much if you would let me know if your address changes. It is my task to send these changes to Pergamon Press, to our ESVD Bulletin Editor Joan Rest and finally, to our Treasurer. It is sometimes a big puzzle to find out which payment goes with which name. In the past we had members who paid from their business account, which had a different name from their own - you can imagine the complications! We cannot be expected to know this - we are very sorry, but please don't create these puzzles for us - we spend enough time behind our computers as it is!

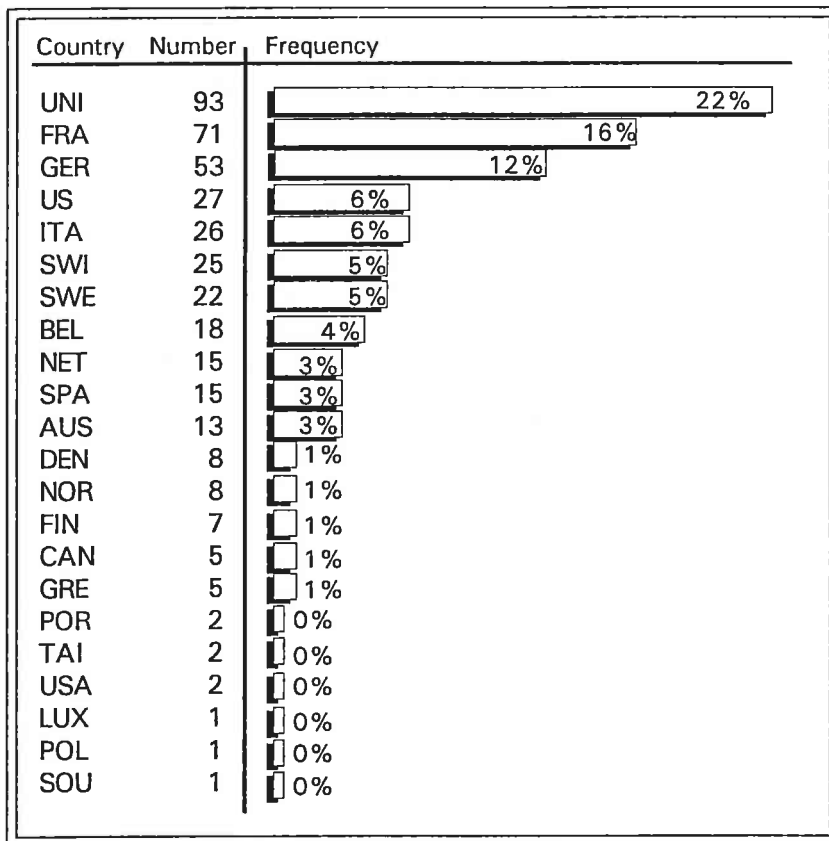
The ESVD has asked one member from each country to be a national representative. These representatives will help the Board and the National Committees, who organise the national meeting, to distribute our brochures to non-members. In this way, meetings will be known about by more veterinarians both in Europe and further afield. I do hope more veterinarians will be affected by the dermatitis virus.

I should like to thank those national representatives who very kindly reacted so quickly to my letter - their addresses have been transmitted to the organizing committee of Spain.

Finally, if you have any suggestions for me, please let me know. The ESVD Board is working for YOU!

**Margreet Vroom**

**MEMBERSHIP PROFILE**



## FUTURE MEETINGS

### ESVD INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS

**1st-3rd September 1995**

**ESVD 12TH ANNUAL CONGRESS, BARCELONA, SPAIN**

Brochures and Application forms were circulated  
with the Annual Report

General and specialised programmes

Registration is cheaper before 31st May.

Tel: +34 3 453 3660 Fax: +34 3 453 3869

**7th-13th August 1995**

**ESVD WORKSHOP IN DERMATOPATHOLOGY,  
LONDON, ENGLAND**

Course Tutors: Dr Julie Yager and Dr Tony  
Stannard

Organiser: Mrs Janet Davis

Tel: +44 1707 666 333 Fax: +44 1707 652 090

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### OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES AND MEETINGS

**11th-21st April 1995**

**DERMATOLOGY I**

Organiser: European School for Advanced  
Veterinary Studies (ESAVS)

Information: ESAVS Office Birkenfeld, Am  
Kirchplatz 2, D-55765 BIRKENFELD,  
GERMANY.

Fax: +49 6782-4314

Information: ECVS, Monika Gutscher,  
Winterthurerstr.260, 8057 ZÜRICH,

SWITZERLAND Tel: +41 1-313 03 83 Fax:  
+41 1-313 03 84

**24th-25th June 1995**

**CONTROVERSIES IN VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY:  
PEMPHIGUS DISEASES**

Organiser: Veterinärdermatologischer Arbeitskreis  
in Cooperation with the European School for  
Advanced Veterinary Studies

Speakers: Dr C. Noli, Professor M Suter,  
Professor R W Dunstan, Professor R E W  
Halliwell

Participation fee: DM 300

Information and Registration: Arbeitskreis für  
Veterinärdermatologie, Dr H-J Koch, D-55765  
BIRKENFELD, GERMANY

Tel: +49 6782-2329

Fax: +49 6782-4314

**27th-30th September 1995**

**13TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON VETERINARY  
PATHOLOGY, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**

Organiser: European Society of Veterinary  
Pathology

Information: Peter Niven, 13th European  
Congress on Veterinary Pathology, The  
University of Edinburgh, Abden House, 1  
Marchhall Crescent, EDINBURGH EH16 5HP,  
SCOTLAND

Tel: +44 131-650-3475 Fax: +44 131-650-3474

**Autumn 1995**

**DERMATOLOGY II**

Organiser: European School for Advanced  
Veterinary Studies (ESAVS)

Information: ESAVS Office Birkenfeld, Am  
Kirchplatz 2, D-55765 BIRKENFELD,  
GERMANY.

Fax: +49 6782-4314

**30th June - 2nd July 1995**

**FOURTH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS**

29th June Special Seminar for Equine Practitioners  
(in German)

30th June Special Seminar for Small Animal  
Practitioners (in German)

Organiser: European College of Veterinary  
Surgeons

**9th-20th October 1995**

**DERMATOHISTOPATHOLOGY**

Organiser: European School for Advanced  
Veterinary Studies (ESAVS)

Information: ESAVS Office Birkenfeld, Am  
Kirchplatz 2, D-55765 BIRKENFELD, GER-  
MANY:

Fax: +49 6782-4314

**12th-14th September 1996**

**THIRD WORLD CONGRESS OF VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY,  
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**



## SOME COMMENTS FROM BORDEAUX.....

In the last issue we gave you the thoughts on the Congress in Bordeaux from two of the eminent delegates. If any of you are unconvinced and have any doubts as to whether or not to go to Barcelona this year, here are just some extracts from the many letters of congratulation and thanks received by the organiser, Didier Carlotti.....

*"Cher Didier*

*E comme Eucuménique*

*S comme Super*

*V comme Victoire*

*D comme Dermatologie bien sûr*

*Ce Congrès fut vraiment genial sur tous les points"*

**Eric GUAGUERE, President du GEDAC**

*".....the wonderful organization of both the scientific and social sides of the congress (where else on earth can you have the Sauternes at 10:30 in the morning!) and the tremendous Gala Dinner will all stay with me for many years. I had a wonderful time...."*

**Keith L THODAY, Small Animal Clinic, The University of Edinburgh**

*"Contente d'avoir découvert une ville superbe ....aux habitants aimables.*

*Contente d'avoir appris ou ré-appris plein de choses*

*Contente d'avoir eu des échanges avec les `papes, évêques et cardinaux' de la dermatologie vétérinaire.*

*Contente d'm'apercevoir que, bien que n'étant qu'une généraliste branchée dermato (un curé de campagne pour reprendre la hiérarchie évoquée plus haut) mon raisonnement rejoignait souvent celui des sommités reconnues.*

*Contente d'avoir constaté que la race des dermatos n'est pas prête de s'éteindre (vu le nombre d'heureux évènements en préparation).*

*Bref, je ne regrette pas d'avoir `abandonné' mari, enfants et clientèle pour Bordeaux.*

*Un grand merci".*

**Fabienne DETHIOUX-VISSE, Congressiste**

*"We are recovering from `jet lag' and are back at work. We wanted to thank you again (+again + again) for everything. Didier, the Congress was fantastic. Thanks for making it all possible".*

**Thelma Lee GROSS, California**

*"Thank you very much for a wonderful week in Bordeaux. We enjoyed the work and we enjoyed Bordeaux and all the lovely people that we met. We hope that we shall meet again".*

**Loretta and Steven, British students**

*"I would like to congratulate you on a superb meeting - the 10th Annual Meeting of the ESVD at Bordeaux was certainly an event to remember. The science was good (as David Lloyd would say). Including the session given by the human dermatologists was an excellent idea. The lecture on atopy was particularly good - I wish it had been twice as long. Of course the hospitality was exceptional, the cuisine, the fine wines, the ambience - the fireworks! Bravo Didier".*

**Julie YAGER, University of Guelph, Ontario**

## ABSTRACTS

✓ **CASTRATION REDUCES THE FELINE SKIN CONCENTRATION IN CAT ALLERGENS**  
Zielonka, T.M., Charpin, D., Berbis, P., et al. Effects of castration and testosterone on Fel d I production by sebaceous glands of male cats: 1. Immunological assessment. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 1994; 24: 1169-73.

✗ Charpin C., Zielonka, T.M., Charpin, D., et al. Effects of castration and testosterone on Fel d I production by sebaceous glands of male cats: 2. Morphometric assessment. *Clinical and Experimental Allergy* 1994; 24: 1174-8.

The major cat allergen, Fel d I, has been demonstrated to be produced by both sebaceous and salivary glands. The castration of male cats reduced skin lipid production and cutaneous concentration in Fel d I. Administration of long-acting testosterone to previously castrated cats lead to increased sebum production and Fel d I skin concentration. Morphometric analyses confirmed the influence of castration and testosterone on the size of sebaceous cells. Skin lipids and Fel d I skin concentration were correlated to the size of the sebocytes.

### CUTANEOUS NEUROFIBROMATOSIS IN HOLSTEIN CATTLE

Sartin, E.A., Doran, S.E., Riddel, M.G., et al. Characterization of naturally occurring cutaneous neurofibromatosis in Holstein cattle. A disorder resembling neurofibromatosis type 1 in humans. *American Journal of Pathology* 1994; 145: 1168-74.

A small group of cows in a Holstein dairy herd developed multiple cutaneous neurofibromas resembling those present in humans with neurofibromatosis. Immunohistochemistry and electron microscopy were consistent with a Schwannian origin of the neoplastic cells. Linkage analysis confirmed that two affected cows had inherited the same paternal NF1 allele. Bovine cutaneous neurofibromatosis is suspected to be caused by mutations of the NF1 locus

### HUMAN CARRIAGE OF *STAPHYLOCOCCUS INTERMEDIUS*

✗ Harvey, R.G., Marples, R.R., Noble, W.C. Nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus intermedius* in humans in contact with dogs. *Microbial Ecology in Health and Disease* 1994; 7: 225-7.

Nasal carriage of *Staphylococci* was investigated in 16 owners of dogs with atopic dermatitis and 13 veterinary practice staff in constant contact with dogs. There were one persistent and four transient nasal carriers of *Staphylococcus intermedius*. Transfer of *S. intermedius* from dog to human is probably not as uncommon as was previously suspected.

### HUMAN SYSTEMIC LUPUS AND PROTECTION FROM APOPTOSIS

✗ Cheng, J., Zhou, T., Liu, C., et al. Protection from Fas-mediated apoptosis by a soluble form of the Fas molecule. *Science* 1994; 263, 1759-62.

Fas is a transmembrane receptor that is suspected to mediate the signal for a cell to undergo apoptosis. Mutations of the Fas molecule have been recently observed in *lpr* mice which spontaneously develop systemic lupus. In these mice, it is suspected that the Fas mutation prevents the self-reactive lymphocytes to undergo apoptosis in the thymus, thus causing an autoimmune disease. The present paper confirms the existence of another Fas mutation in 60% of human patients in SLE. This mutation results in a soluble rather than a transmembrane Fas molecule. The soluble Fas molecule leads *in vivo* to altered lymphocyte development and increased proliferation in response to self-antigens.

### COULD PEMPHIGUS BE INDUCED BY FOOD?

✗ Brenner, S., Wolf, R. Possible nutritional factors in induced pemphigus. *Dermatology* 1994; 189: 337-9.

It is presently accepted that drug that possess an active sulfhydryl (thiol) group might induce pemphigus foliaceus in human patients. Some plants of the Allium group (e.g. onions, leeks, garlic...) are rich in molecules with stable disulfide and thiol groups. It is suspected that foods rich in vegetables of the Allium group could contribute to the induction of pemphigus. Who will report the first well documented case of food-induced pemphigus?

## **CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC URTICARIA AND ANTIBODIES AGAINST THE HIGH AFFINITY IgE RECEPTOR**

Hide, M., Francis, D.M., Grattan, C.E.H., et al. Autoantibodies against the high-affinity IgE receptor as a cause of histamine release in chronic urticaria. *New England Journal of Medicine* 1993; 328: 1599-604.

Hide, M., Greaves, M. Failure to tolerate high affinity IgE receptors: a novel mechanism in the pathogenesis of diseases that result from abnormal cell activation. *Annals of Medicine* 1994; 26: 117-8. [Editorial].

IgG autoantibodies against Fc $\epsilon$ RI, the high-affinity IgE receptor, were identified in sera of four patients with chronic urticaria. The autoantibodies induced histamine release *in vitro* from normal basophils, and were shown to be competitive with IgE for receptor binding. The histamine-release activity was abolished by incubating the patients' sera with the recombinant soluble portion of the alpha-subunit of the Fc $\epsilon$ RI. It is suspected that these antibodies might stimulate mast cells and basophils by cross-linking the Fc $\epsilon$ RI receptors.

## **ATOPY AND MUTATIONS OF THE HIGH-AFFINITY IgE RECEPTOR**

Shirakawa, T., Li, A., Dubowitz, M., et al. Association between atopy and the variants of the  $\beta$  subunit of the high-affinity immunoglobulin E receptor. *Nature Genetics* 1994; 7: 125-30.

Previous studies have confirmed the linkage of maternally-transmitted atopy with a portion of chromosome 11q. This paper reveals the existence of a mutation in the gene coding for the beta-subunit of the high-affinity IgE receptor in some families suffering from atopic asthma. Seventeen percent of families with asthma carry this mutation. One hundred percent of the children carrying this mutation are atopic. Most children not harboring this mutation were not atopic. The present mutation appears maternally transmitted. This outstanding work suggests that this mutation (leading to an amino-acid substitution in a transmembrane domain of the beta-chain) might promote the atopic state either by enhanced release of pro-inflammatory mediators by mast cells, or by enhanced stimulation of B-lymphocyte IgE production.

## **LAMELLAR ICHTHYOSIS AND TRANSGLUTAMINASE MUTATIONS**

Huber, M., Rettler, I., Bernasconi, K., et al. Mutations of the keratinocyte transglutaminase in lamellar ichthyosis. *Science* 1995; 267: 525-7.

The enzyme transglutaminase K is involved in the keratinocyte cornified envelope formation by cross-linking protein precursors (e.g. involucrin, loricrin, ...). This recent paper demonstrated the existence of reduced transglutaminase K activity in individuals belonging to three families with lamellar ichthyosis. Furthermore, homozygous or compound mutations of the TGK gene were identified in all families. It is suspected that mutations of the transglutaminase K gene might be responsible for the lamellar ichthyosis phenotype by impairing normal cornified envelope formation.

## **ACROMEGALY OF DIASTRUS AND MAMMARY GROWTH-HORMONE**

Selman, P.J., Mol, J.A., Rutteman, G.R., et al. Progesterin-induced growth hormone excess in the dog originates in the mammary gland. *Endocrinology* 1994; 134: 287-92.

Previous studies have demonstrated that endogenous progesterone and exogenous progestagens can induce the release of growth hormone (GH) causing clinical symptoms of acromegaly. This elegant set of studies confirms that progestagen-induced GH secretion originates in the hyperplastic ductular epithelium of the mammary gland. This ectopic mammary-derived GH is similar to pituitary-derived GH and is biologically active.

Abstracts kindly supplied by :

Thierry Olivry, Dr. Vet., Assistant Professor of Dermatology  
Department of Companion Animal and Special Species Medicine  
College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, U.S.A.

## RESIDENTS' CORNER

### **The first European Veterinary Dermatology Resident's Meeting, Bordeaux, 1st June 1994.**

We are pleased to report that the first pre-ESVD Congress Resident's meeting was a great success.

A report of the meeting has been written by one of the participants, Hilary Farmer, dermatology Resident in Edinburgh and appears below. We would like to thank our local colleagues for organising the meeting room and for the dinner arrangements. A very special thank you must go to Bayer for their generosity throughout. We also thank C-Vet for sponsoring Professor Yager.

Following on the heels of this highly successful event, plans are well underway for the pre-ESVD congress Resident's Meeting in Barcelona this year.

Anyone wishing to learn more about future meetings should send details of their current position, time devoted to dermatology and current research interests to the meeting organisers, Chiara Noli or Cathy Curtis, whose addresses are shown below.

Chiara Noli  
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine  
Yolaan 8  
PO Box 80.154  
3508 TD UTRECHT  
NETHERLANDS

Cathy Curtis  
The Royal Veterinary College  
University of London  
Hawkshead House  
North Mimms, HATFIELD  
Hertfordshire AL9 7JA, UK.

### **REPORT ON THE FIRST EUROPEAN VETERINARY DERMATOLOGY RESIDENT'S MEETING IN HELD IN BORDEAUX ON 1ST JUNE 1994.**

The concept of the first European Veterinary Resident's meeting was realised by Chiara Noli from the State University of Utrecht and Cathy Curtis from the Royal Veterinary College in London. Those that were in attendance I'm sure will join me in thanking them for all their hard work which culminated in a very successful and interesting day.

Invitations to this event were extended to those European Veterinarians who dedicate at least 70% of their time to the study of dermatology in a university or referral situation. Twenty eight residents attended from a variety of European countries. The presentations were made in English.

The morning session was a very comprehensive and detailed discussion of the skin as an immune organ. I find this a confusing subject at the best of times, but after this presentation by Dr Julie Yager from Ontario Veterinary College, much of the mystery was dispelled, revealing a logical and exciting network of immune responses. Her presentation was complemented by detailed notes which, I am sure, will be useful to those of us studying for further qualifications.

After lunch, it was the residents themselves who took the floor. Each person was allowed 15 minutes to present interesting cases or results of current research projects. For many of the participants, this was their first opportunity to speak in public and this meeting provided the ideal informal atmosphere to inspire confidence and generate discussion.

After the scientific proceedings of the day, we were generously taken to dinner at l'Ombriere Restaurant by the pharmaceutical company Bayer. This gave us all an opportunity to meet and talk with our colleagues throughout Europe, in addition to enjoying the good food and fine wine of Aquitaine.

I'm sure my European colleagues will join me in hoping that this meeting has set a precedent for years to come.

**Hilary A Farmer**  
**Resident in Dermatology**  
**Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND**



## **FROM THE TREASURER, DOMINIQUE HERIPRET**

### **Good News - the ESVD fee has been reduced!**

Now that each member is receiving Veterinary Dermatology as part of their membership fee (with the exception of about 20 members who receive the Journal directly or by the AAVD) we are paying for each member on the Elsevier Editor's list. We therefore have to pay careful attention to each member's payment status. It is important that every member pays on a regular basis.

In 1994, we had about 120 members who had not paid their fees for more than two years. We sent these members a first reminder on 1st July and a second reminder in October. Those who have still not paid have been deleted from the ESVD membership list - this is about 90 "members". These people can of course re-join the ESVD but have to submit a new application form to the Membership Secretary, Margreet Vroom.

This year we have sent the payment forms at the end of January and we are going to send a first reminder in May and a second in October. Once again, we shall delete non-paying members at this time.

For those who have problems with bank transfers or other personal difficulties, do please contact me and I shall try to answer as quickly as I can.

Margreet and I are doing our best to have an up-dated address list. PLEASE, if your address has changed, send us your new one.

### **ESVD Congress**

The Treasurer's balance for the Bordeaux Congress is somewhat negative. We only had 200 registrations. In Aalborg we had 350 registrations and the balance was very positive (thanks to Kristen Pederson, Wilfried Goecke and all the others). It is difficult to understand why we had such a difference.

The Barcelona Congress has now been announced and the programme is exciting, the location wonderful. so why not spend a holiday in late august in Spain. The congress would be a good transition before going back to work.

**Please don't forget to register early**

**Dominique Heripret**

## **ESVD WORKSHOP ON DERMATOPATHOLOGY**

**8-12 AUGUST 1995**

**THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE, HAWKESHEAD CAMPUS  
HATFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE, UK.**

**Registration is now invited for this practical and  
informative course.**

**Tutors: Professor Tony Stannard, Professor Julie Yager  
and Dr Claudia von Tscharner**

**Further details from Mrs Janet Davis, RVC,  
Telephone : +44 1707 666333  
Fax: +44 1707 652090**